

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS 1871-
1914

49

ists in the French Congo and German capitalists in the Cameroons.

The decision of the Monis Cabinet to reconsider the railway agreement synchronized with rumours of a forward policy in Morocco, where civil war, tribal revolts and an empty exchequer had reduced the country to anarchy. Every one knew that the Sultan was incapable of keeping order. On March 13, 1911, Kiderlen-Wachter, who succeeded Schoen as Foreign Minister in 1910, uttered a warning to Jules Cambon. "German opinion might be excited, and it would be wise if Germany were informed in good time. By small successive operations

France might be led on to an even more extended operation, which would end by annulling the Act of Algeciras." The Ambassador replied that French plans were not fixed, but that the Act of Algeciras would be respected. On April 4 he intimated that France would probably be forced to occupy Rabat, and Kiderlen replied that he was apprehensive of the effect of the news on German opinion. On April 19 Cruppi informed Berlin that in view of the danger to Europeans

France had responded to the Sultan's appeal for aid by organizing a force for the relief of Fez, which was surrounded by rebels, and that a French column would be available if required to succour the capital. Bethmann now added his warnings to those of Kiderlen. Germany, he declared, had no reason to believe that the Europeans in Fez were in danger, though foreign military operations might provoke it. "You know German opinion on Morocco, and I must take it into account. If you go to Fez, you will stay there, and then the whole*

Moroccan question will be raised, which I wish at all costs to avoid. I do not say No, because I cannot assume responsibility for your compatriots, but I cannot encourage you. I can only

counsel prudence." "The Chancellor,"
reported Jules
Cambon, "does not seek adventures in Morocco
and only
wishes to maintain Germany's economic
interests ; not so the
Pan-Germans. We must try to solve the problem
without
putting ourselves too much forward. I deplore
the articles in
our press on the Tunisification of Morocco, which
are brought
up against our official declarations."

William n was always a moderate in regard to
Morocco.

He had shrunk from war in 1905-6, and in 1911
he was much
less disturbed by French schemes than his
advisers. "It will
suit us quite well," he telegraphed from Corfu, **
if the French
get tied up in Morocco with troops and money,
and I think it